

February 2023

Robert Land Academy The Loyalist

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Tim Hudak
Board Chair

I have often expressed how impressed I was with the Academy when I first visited RLA as the local Member of Provincial Parliament. One of the aspects of the program at the school that really impresses me is the opportunity our students have that most other schools don't offer.

RLA's Adventure Training includes skydiving,

scuba diving and, thanks to a successful fundraising campaign in 2021, rappelling. With March Break approaching quickly, three staff and two students are preparing for one of those Adventure Training opportunities - The Bataan Memorial Death March in New Mexico. The march is a 26.2-mile march through White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in honour of US service members, many from the New Mexico National Guard (NMNG), who were POWs in the Philippine Islands during World War II. In the school I went to, the closest equivalent was a jog around the school in gym class!

In recognition of our good friendship with the NMNG, RLA has taken part in the march annu-



ally for many years. Only a handful of students are selected to take part each year, and they proudly wear the Bataan medals they have earned.

As with our other Adventure Training activities, when they have completed the march our students will feel a sense of true accomplishment, recognize they can do anything if they work for it, and build their self-confidence. The boys also learn the importance



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A Company Report

Success at the Academy is a result of teamwork

Bar Niceforo

We can blame COVID for too much video game time, not exercising, not keeping up on chores, poor grades, and, well pretty much everything, but the sobering reality is that it was not COVID's fault for any of our own neglect, it was us. I arrived at RLA in November of 2022. Looking back now, I am glad my parents realized that I was slipping academically, behaviourally and in pretty much in any way possible, using that convenient crutch of COVID to blame for all of my new neglect and wanting to correct that as soon as possible.

November 23, 2022 was my first day at RLA. What a change! My traditional excuses that worked at my previous school were now ineffective. I had to wait at least three weeks before talking to my parents. I couldn't watch TV on Fridays, I had mandatory study time, I couldn't use the bathroom three times a class to miss lessons, I had to iron uniforms and fold underwear...I was a prisoner! The first three weeks were really difficult for me. I tried to protest getting my hair cut, it took me months to grow it that long. That didn't work either. I was defeated. Nothing I valued, I had anymore. I had nothing, nothing but time to think.

When I wasn't upset the first few weeks about losing my identity, I began to notice that certain Cadets that had jobs were rewarded for fulfilling responsibilities. These House IC's were like small group leaders,



passing on information and showing others how to roll socks, manage time better and where to label pants. They were a wealth of Academy knowledge if you just chose to access them. If you were nice to them, they went out of their way to help you.

By week three, I wanted to go to campfires, movies and popcorn on Fridays. My House IC, taught me well, he told me that if I tried my best on my kit and house job he would tell the staff and NCO's that I was working hard to earn my Cadet...aka campfires and Friday night movies and popcorn. He didn't deceive me, even though I thought he may. Shortly after my first four weeks, I had figured out that being at campfires and movies was better than mandatory study halls.

After weeks of being homesick, and learning how to earn my first promotion, I was promoted to Cadet and had my first leave shortly after. I am extremely

grateful for having those first four to five difficult weeks, as I proved to myself that I could adapt, refocus and achieve, especially when I did not want to. I did not think I was capable of that. I also realized I did not achieve that promotion on my own. My House IC was a huge help and a huge reason for me earning that promotion.

Two weeks ago, I just completed teaching lessons on a recruit course. Now I am a House IC in the barracks and have recognized that the new recruits in my House are just like how I was months ago. It is now my turn to teach them and help them through their first 4-5 difficult weeks. It is more difficult instructing and teaching others than I thought, I am just glad that my House IC is now my Platoon IC and I can still lean on him for support.

Message from the Headmaster

Take advantage of every opportunity

P.D. (Pete) Stock, BSc,
MSc, MA.
Acting Headmaster

As we enter a new semester and hopefully a new season! It's important to take a moment to reflect on the opportunities that await us this coming semester at Robert Land Academy. With a fresh beginning comes the chance to set new goals, try new things, and create new experiences. This is a time to seize opportunities, embrace change, and live life to the fullest.

Recently, our Headmaster gave an inspirational talk, despite battling health issues, in which he encouraged us to do just that. He spoke about the importance

of taking advantage of every opportunity that comes our way and not being afraid to try new things. He emphasized that every moment is precious, and we should make the most of every opportunity.

As students, you are fortunate to have a world of opportunities in front of you. Whether it's trying out for a new sport, joining a different club, or taking on a new leadership role, there is no limit to what you can accomplish if you commit. You can take advantage of the resources available to you and pursue our passions with purpose and determination.

This semester provides us all with a fresh start,

an opportunity to make new friends, and build new relationships. It's a chance to step out of our comfort zones and try something new. By taking on new challenges, we can learn about ourselves, our interests, and our potential. Let us remember the inspiring words of our Headmaster. Let us take advantage of every opportunity that comes our way, no matter how big or small. Let us embrace the unknown and live life to the fullest. Let us approach each day with a positive attitude, a willingness to learn, and a determination to succeed. Together, we can create a bright future for ourselves and for our school.

In conclusion, the start



of a new school year offers endless opportunities for growth and exploration. Let's embrace the possibilities that lie ahead and seize every opportunity that comes our way. By doing so, we can create a fulfilling and successful year for ourselves, inspired by the words of our Headmaster, who reminded us to make the most of every moment.

March Break adventures for RLA continued

of teamwork, of supporting each other and leadership.

This is why our Adventure Training, and all other aspects of the RLA program, are so important. They provide our students with the skills necessary to conquer any challenge they may face and sets them up for success.

In addition to the trip to New Mexico, ten RLA students are taking part in a trip to France during the March Break to tour important battlefield sites.

While this isn't truly an Adventure Training exercise, it is still a valuable learning moment for our students. The curriculum for Grade 10 History focuses on modern Canadian history, from World War I in 1914 to the present. This trip puts our students on the ground where Canadians soldiers fought, and died, giving them a personal connection to that history.

This trip is important not because our students will ace their next history test but because they will understand the sacrifices others have made, appreciate the character

and values those young soldiers possessed, and develop a sense of how history impacts how they fit into the world today.

The board not only approves these types of activities but encourages them because they are part of what makes RLA so unique and why our students are successful at RLA and as leaders in the workforce and community.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable March Break, whether you are taking part in an exciting trip or staying closer to home.

The not so brave world and channeling of emotions

Dr. David Harley

It seems that we live in a society and in an age where wants are often not distinguished from needs. Once primarily referred to as citizens, then voters and now consumers, this change in terminology underscores the promoted obligation to consume to keep the economy going and to keep people employed. As such, consuming is good and noble. It is therefore an inherent characteristic of our society to stimulate wants and to also present them as needs so as to encourage consumption.

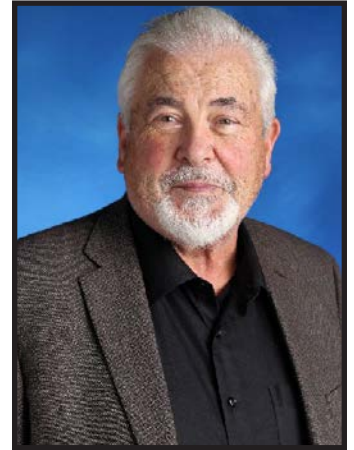
For those of you who have read Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* published in 1932, you may remember that his dystopian picture of a future society has the government encouraging any leisure activities that involve the heavy purchasing of equipment and discouraging activities that do not. His other predictions included big screen entertainment in ultra high definition with enhanced sound and the use of pharmaceuticals to constantly monitor and enhance moods. Huxley maintained quite correctly that it is easier to change people's perception of reality than it is to change reality. Presently, self-medication in all of its variously approved and not so approved forms can be

seen as ready substitutes for Huxley's government issued and endorsed soma tablets. If then, (a) it is clearly much more difficult to change society and social reality than it is to change human beings and (b) that emotions and moods can be engineered through chemical substances found in nature or manufactured in a lab then does it not necessarily follow that (c) if the purpose of life is simply to increase pleasure and decrease displeasure, how does it matter how that is achieved?

The irony presented by Huxley is that it may be possible for a future society to maintain stability and order not through coercion or fear as occurs in George Orwell's 1984 published in 1948 but through the channelling of emotions and desires in ways that remove frustration, competition, possessiveness and sadness. That said, what kind of human existence remains. Huxley's outcast savage longs to feel the emotions portrayed in Shakespeare's plays while Lenina, the object of his passion, merely wishes to engage in sexual athletics and soma tablets. Predictably, this results in an unsatisfactory relationship for both parties. where neither can understand the other. And so we are lead back to a dialectical view

of reality in which all emotions derive meaning from their opposites the experience of which is fundamental to the depth and profundity of life.

The world of Opera is an interesting insight into this reality. Few operas end well. They invariably conclude with the tragic death of the leading figure or figures most commonly through actions of extreme passion that include hatred, jealousy and the desire for revenge. Most operas, other than perhaps Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*, are unapologetic expressions of human emotion over reason combined with the embracing of the tragic consequences of following that path. One of my favourite operas had inspiring music that I thought suggestive of some transcendent spiritual expression. I was confounded to later learn from a translation of the Italian that it served as the backdrop for two Sicilian males stabbing each other to death in the village market place over the possession of the same girl. The music had never suggested that to me but clearly it was considered appropriate by the composer. But perhaps the world of opera should be understood not as a window into the world as it is or should be, but rather as a holiday from the real world of restraint and order where instead emotions are given free



reign to play themselves out within the safe context of a stage.

Of course opera is not the only example that one can find of the vicarious indulgence of emotions. Horror movies provide similar outlets for the contained and controlled response to situations that in real life we would avoid at all costs. The sense of control derived from the eventual realization that it is just a movie can be the same as waking up from a nightmare with the realization that it is just a dream. Whereas a little learning may be a dangerous thing, perhaps a little terror is our way of preparing us for it.

All of us are presented at birth with a virtual palette of emotions through which to experience and express our interaction with the world as it is presented. Reason develops as a means to navigate, predict and seemingly control that reality and it is quickly

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The not so brave world and channeling of emotions cont'd

enlisted in the support of various strategies to help us get what we want. Childhood is characterized by focusing on parents or caregivers to fulfill wants. The passage to adulthood involves the successful adaptation of behaviour to secure wants independent of the family and by engaging the outside world. In order to promote this adaptation, good parenting must therefore gradually reduce the child's dependence on them in order to promote independence as adults.

With respect to parenting, few approach it with the appropriate degree of humility and apprehension. In this instance, nature has ensured that we rarely pause before we leap. Everyone, it seems, prior to being a parent sees themselves as experts. Since all adults have experienced childhood, the matter is simple. One merely needs to reproduce those good things that one experienced and remove the bad things — normally interpreted as those things our parents did not supply to us on demand. It is this attitude whether consciously expressed or subconsciously assumed that governs parenting. The same can be said to be the even case of educational theorists. However, the quest for perfection involves

removing frustrations and hardships by making childhood more comfortable which is translated into increasing the satisfaction of wants. Many well intentioned parents have embarked upon their mission with this philosophy only to find that the product of their efforts greatly disappoints their expectations.

At the biological level, children who experience some exposure to infections are able to develop the antibodies necessary to fight off diseases in later life. Indeed, the entire theory behind the practice of vaccines is to use a controlled amount of a

it is the very
imperfections
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that create
adults of
character

given bacteria to stimulate the response of antibodies required to fight it. In like manner, the frustrations and emotional hardships of youth can stimulate the necessary responses to overcome and transcend them. We normally refer to this as character.

I would therefore

suggest to you the ironic but nonetheless true assertion that it is the very imperfections of childhood that create adults of character, determination and purpose. In my own personal experience as an educator, I have found dealing with the emotional impact of failure and frustration while growing up to be an essential part of avoiding it as an adult or coping with it when it became unavoidable. Many students who float through high school with high marks and consistent validation find themselves emotionally devastated by inferior results in first year of university or college. The big fish in the small pond may approach the lake with confidence but rarely sustains it without a struggle. This is equally true of the transition from the lake into the ocean.

Problems in adolescence provide the opportunity to foster the development of self-confidence and the ability to internalize the self-discipline required to legitimately promote it. In a manner of speaking, like the oyster, these experiences can form the irritant required to form the pearl. As another saying expresses it, one can turn lemons into lemonade. The inevitable experience of hardships and frustration during childhood and adolescence provide

opportunities for growth. While the love and security within the family can support this, it can also sometimes be misapplied to insulate children from these experiences to such an extent that they are incapable of the emotional resiliency required of them in later life.

It could be argued that the current phenomenon of the rapid growth of mental illness in North America is a direct result of a style of life and parenting where many children have never had so much and be deprived of so little. As a result, they have failed to develop the skills required to survive. The struggles and frustrations avoided in childhood are pushed forward into adulthood. The entitlement derived from security, comfort and consistent praise create a level of emotional sensitivity than is inconsistent with emotional stability. We now live in a society where everyone is a victim of someone else's injustice either in the present or in the past and where a false sense of moral perfection is imposed upon the human race as a normative standard. The sensitivities of others have become the emotional minefield of modern living in the West while our own sensitivities undermine

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The not so brave world and channeling of emotions cont'd

our own ability to sustain mental stability.

Where individualism is equatable with selfishness, true individualism will cease to exist. Conforming to the lowest standards of human behaviour breeds a consistency of expectation and outcome. Human exceptionality, on the other hand, by its very definition consists precisely in the opposite. Reading the biographies and autobiographies of extraordinary individuals yields a common theme, that overcoming obstacles breeds strength of character. Strength

of character on the other hand seems to be derived from the innate stubbornness that all youth possess in abundance but which is all too often misdirected. When correctly directed what can be a weakness becomes a strength. What is potentially the sources of great weakness can be transformed into sources of great strength.

In closing therefore, I would like to leave you with the following thoughts. Those who struggle in adolescence both socially and academically are provided with an opportunity

to emerge from that experience stronger than they entered it. In so doing, they not only have the prospect of earning a better future, but also equipping themselves with the qualities to not only support themselves but others. Success cannot be given but must be earned. Self-confidence cannot depend upon constant validation from others but must ultimately be derived from self-validation derived from objective self-evaluation. Hence competition and a just assessment of one's own strengths and weakness relative to

others is an essential part of this development. The belief that others have successfully met these challenges is the true stimulus for action. If they can do it so can you.

Life is perhaps best seen as a series of challenges with occasional periods of rest or relief the purpose of which is to gain the needed strength and resolve to continue. Whereas the warp and weft of emotion and reason may form the fabric of life, the ultimate design of the cloth is in our hands to create.

Health & Safety

MWO Chris Kivell

Health & Safety Committee

Personal protective equipment (PPE) is equipment or clothing worn to minimize exposure to chemical hazards, loud noises, and other hazards in the workplace and in the home.

PPE does not remove or reduce the hazards and does not replace effective engineering or administrative control methods such as substitution or ventilation. PPE is the last line of defense when the hazard cannot be removed or controlled adequately. Proper selection, use and care of the equipment are vital to provide the proper level of protection.

PPE is not just for the work environment, but the home as well. Do you use chemicals to clean around your house? Have you ever taken the time to look at the directions and precautions to use the household chemicals. Some things you might want to consider. Skin Protection - Many kinds of protective gloves and clothing are available, all depending on the job you

are doing always read the recommendations for the use of the chemicals.

Eye Protection - Goggles, do you need them, should you wear them?

Hearing Protection - How loud is that lawn mower you use. How loud is that speaker blaring from your son's room.



B Company Report

The responsibilities of a B Coy House IC

LBar Avayou

When I started at Robert Land Academy, I quickly realized that many different positions were available to the students. Many boys apply and only a few are selected. In my first year at the Academy, I was on the Mess Clean-up for quite awhile. I really enjoyed working with my friends and being able to provide direction when others were uncertain of the tasks we needed to complete. I am glad for the experience as it taught me how to work in a team.

The position of House IC is one of the more interesting posts available. It interested me from the time that I started at Robert Land. When I was new at school, I was able to look to my House IC for guidance if I was not sure of what to do. I was taught how to keep my kit presentable and my bed space neat and tidy. Also, we could count on our House IC to guide us through various inspections.

Now that I am a Barman in my second year at school, and I know what is expected from myself and the student body, I felt that I would now be a good candidate for the position. And since I was

still very interested, I was willing to give it my best shot and apply. In order to be considered, I had to write a memo to Captain Scott. In the memo, I needed to explain why I should be selected. I wrote that I felt I could gain leadership experience and possibly advance in rank. This is very important to me as well as doing well academically. I know that the most essential qualities for this job are leadership, responsibility and organization. You also need to have achieved the rank of Cadet to qualify. That part was easy, the letter was a bit harder! My previous experience as House 2 built my confidence and I learned the role and responsibility by assisting the House IC perform his duties.

The House IC along with his assistant, the House 2, is responsible for the following tasks:

1. All housemates kits are up to standard: Boots must be blackened and shined
Battle Dress Uniform (BOU) must be clean and pressed
 - Tee Shirts and underwears measured and pressed
 - Socks rolled tight
- Hanger order must be organized Kit must be



labeled
Locker sheets filled in
House clean up

2. The House IC must make sure his boys are formed up and ready for inspection. The boys have to stand next to their lockers at attention. After inspection, the House IC will thank the Inspector and the boys can return to at ease. After which, the group will head out to the Mess Hall for breakfast.

3. Upon return to the house after dinner, it is

the duty of the House IC to make sure that all the boys are on best behavior and redo their kits for the evening.

If the House IC does outstanding work, he will be considered for the position of Platoon IC. The House IC is considered as an NCO (Non Commissioned Officer) this comes with additional privileges such as off-campus leaves and Thursday night movie-night.

C Company Report

Climb your own mountain and aim high

Cadet Thompson

I have been at Robert Land Academy for three years now. I'm a Grade 11 student and next year I will make a huge decision about choosing post-secondary education. To be honest, I'm not fully sure of what career I would want to do for 12 months a year and reflecting on Robert Land Academy's 5 values, the values are not just for the time you're at RLA. These values are for life. I am currently reading "So Help Me God" by Mike Pence, the former Vice President of the United States of America. The book quotes "climb your own mountain and reach to the top before doing something else."

While I was here I have been a problem and I did things I really shouldn't have done. This year I displayed negative behaviour and wasn't a member of the Company and did not want to be part of RLA. I was called to the C Coy office and Captain Lee demoted me. At first I thought that being a Recruit meant nothing to me. That would change.

I started thinking about what I wanted from the Academy, what I



needed to have success in my life and at RLA. I learned something that had held me back for a long time. I always liked to be negative about the Academy and instead of getting things I wanted, I was losing them. I wanted to get things and gain things. That meant I needed to act properly.

I came back from Stand Down and got my rank back and then started training for Bataan. A marathon that is held annually in New Mexico to remember the POWs who were marched 106 km on the Bataan Peninsula in World War II. I haven't been told yet

100% that I am going but I'm really happy that I decided to change because if I kept on the path I was on I likely wouldn't have been asked if my parents were okay with me going.

The quote from the book, "climb your own mountain" is really and honestly a reality in life.

I really like two things, politics and flying. I thought about serving in the Air Force and gaining experience in flying, though Robert Land Academy isn't exactly an academy for gaining a pilot's licence, there are many things that the

Academy does to help get there. The values have made me think about what I want for myself.

Even though the mountain will have ups and downs, wherever I choose to go I have a long way to go and success will depend on everything. The Academy's values are what are driving me to strive to have the motivation to never give up. Aim High is the motto of the United States Air Force. Along with climbing my mountain, I aim high to strive for my future.

One, exciting paragraph

Major Bill Simmons
Academic Officer



I was recently excited about a writing assignment I gave to my Grade 12 English class. We had read a literary essay that was saturated with rhetorical devices eliciting persuasive, cogent arguments. There were two paragraphs in particular wherein the author used asyndeton, anaphora, and syntax in a rhythmical and musical way that curiously and cleverly augmented his theme. I think everyone (and certainly my students) would agree that it is unhealthy to be excited about a paragraph, but the goal of the exercise was to emulate a great writer so that my students, too, could be persuasive, cogent, and clever.

My idea seemed so smart on paper.

The research and analysis was easy to find: it consisted of exactly six pages at the end of both acts. Six pages. At the end of both acts. Easy.

I was so enthusiastic that I decided to participate, to become teacher-turned-student. I got right to work. I made a T-chart. I scribbled notes. I re-read the six pages that I had already read a thousand times. I re-read them again. I asked myself questions, I scribbled more notes. I was so engrossed in the assignment that I hardly heard the cacophony of the other students until one student asked an important question: "Can I go to the washroom?" Yes. Then another, "What page is this on?" 53. "Where is it in Act 2?" 105. Then I received some succinct statements that signalled the other students were fastidiously toiling: "I can't find any examples...I don't get it...March Break is 15 days away."

I scribbled sentences. I erased words, changed words. My paragraph was coming together – I could see it, but the other kids in the class were so loud by now that I couldn't hear the rhythm. The music.

I had to turn back into a teacher to restore order. I learned two salient lessons from this experience: first, my assignment was communist- it worked only on paper; second, March Break is 15 days away.

Don't go down without a fight

Captain
Andrew Guy
Athletic Director



A lot of times we simply give up far too easily, and mostly because we have been told that's the only way out, especially when we face adverse challenges in life.

Now, let's be honest, no one is immune to the quitter's disease. We are all susceptible to its deadly blows. Coincidentally, none of us are Saints when it comes to giving up! Many of us have given up on dreams, hobbies, desires, hopes, careers, inventions, and innovations that could have changed the world for better. Many parents have also given up on children who could one day become the next president, scientist, world-class athlete, and possibly developed the cure to the next deadly outbreak.

I mean, think about this for a moment here. Can you recall a time in your life when you faced a challenge that simply kicked your tail end, and on your journey to recovery every road sign ahead said you should call it quits! Stop dreaming! Throw in the towel! Quitting is part of life! Everyone is doing it...don't be a hero, just quit now and save yourself the embarrassment!

Now most of us have followed those glaring road signs in our deepest moments of despair. We have all succumbed to the challenges that brought us to our knees. You may not have given up on any of the above mentioned earlier, but rest assured, everyone has given up on something.

This may come to many as the latest Newsflash, but this is nothing new! And yes, as much as I'd like to say, "breaking news...this just in," the truth is, the notion of quitting has been around for centuries.

Millions of people have quit on a dream or two and have given up on ideas that could have changed the world, but the challenges were too insurmountable for them to withstand, so they quit.

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Don't go down without a fight cont'd

Here's the thing, no one has it all together, and the grass is never greener on the other side. If you look closely, you'll notice that the green is only turf, fake, a smoke screen that was meant to distract you from what's most important. You see, the reality is that we each have our own demons to battle, and our only hope is simple to keep our heads above the turbulent waters (the challenges) that come to drown us and keep forging ahead.

Regardless of how your difficulties appear, there's hope. Yes, I said there is hope. If you are that kid who struggle to find your sense of self, I am telling you there's is hope! If you are that leader who struggles to keep things going when everything around you seems like it's falling apart, I am here to tell you, hold on, be strong, keep going. If you are that parent who's having a challenging time trying to get your son to get his act together, but it seems like nothing is working, hold on. Don't quit! Do not throw in the towel yet. Matter-a-fact, change the way you look at your son. Start seeing them as a stem cell that could

become anything. By the way, a stem cell is the only biological specimen that can become any type of cell in a living organism.

Think of your children as such, and the possibility of them becoming something amazing one day. Whatever you do, do not give up on them. And who knows what they could become? Only tomorrow will tell the stories of the struggles you overcame yesterday, but today is your only opportunity to write that story. You will need a pencil before you can begin to write. You are the pencil, but your challenges are the sharpener that will reveal the lead that will transcribe the vision that you must live. The tougher the challenge, the sharper the sharpener, the shaper the pencil, the clearer the story becomes to write. So, embrace your challenges because they only come to make you better for the future that awaits you.

And here's the deal, everything about you is your story. Everything! You are your lived story, and the story that you live to tell is your interpretation of how you experienced it. You want this story to be a good one to tell,

so when the world hears it, lives are transformed forever.

Don't be like the geniuses who had an idea to do something spectacular but quit because they ran into unforeseen challenges that they could not see beyond.

Ever heard of the story about 7up? Well, here's the quick version: some smart shmansy pansy dude had this ridiculous idea of creating a soda pop called (yep, you guessed that right), 7up! I mean, go figure, right! LOL-er! Who's counting?

Yes, it's true. So, the guy went into his lab and created 1up and people told him that was a dumb idea for a drink, so he went back into the lab five more times only to get the same lousy response for the naysayers. And trial after trial he kept running into negative nannies who told him the same story: "no one cares about a drink called, 1up, 2up, 3up, 4up, 5up, and definitely not 6up, so give it



“Much of my success I owe to RLA”

Your gift to the Founder's Scholarship Fund
will allow a young man to find that success.

The fund provides tuition assistance to families
whose sons would benefit from RLA's program but
who cannot afford full tuition.

www.GiveToRLA.ca

Amazing opportunity for students in April

Paul Zahra
ASM

Wow the first part of the year is done and it flew by, and we are in semester two. I think back to where you all were at the beginning of the year, it is neat to see how far you have come in such a short time. You have all made improvements and are moving in a good direction, you may not see it yourself, but I do, and so will your family. They will see a polite and well-mannered young man, someone to be proud of.

I want to give you a little more information about the Massanutten Military Academy raider challenge trip. We depart Monday April 24th early. Drive down to Massanutten Military Academy in Virginia, on the morning of the 25th we get up early for a PT test which will include push-ups, sit-ups, and a timed run, after the PT test we will pack up our gear and

head out to the Massanutten mountains. We will set up our base camp. You use the skills Capt. Lee, and I will teach you to build your improvised shelter, purify water and how to start a fire. After basecamps has been established, the day navigation will begin, you will be partnered up with a Massanutten student. When you return to basecamp you will be tested on knot tying, arm signals for landing a helicopter and what the dimensions and requirements for an LZ are. After you have made your supper, you then go on to night navigation. You will navigate in the dark in two teams to hit 8 different points. The next day the cadets from Massanutten and you will establish an LZ (landing zone) with the possibility of a Blackhawk helicopter. Sgt. Kurtz is working hard to get the helicopters, so cross your fingers. If the LZ is set up right and if you use

the proper commands to land the helicopter you will be taken for a ride. We will then make our way to the Massanutten river, and you will build your improvised rafts and float down the river to the extraction point, once you have reached the point, you will build a one rope bridge and cross the river as a team. We will head back to the school and participate in the obstacle course race. We will clean up and go repelling. The next day we leave early to travel into Washington DC to see the sites, Washington Monument, the White House, Lincoln Memorial and then head over to the Air and Space Museum. We will stop for souvenirs then go for dinner at an all-you-can-eat restaurant, called Golden Corral. We will make our way back to the Massanutten Military Academy, pack up our gear for an early depart to Gettysburg. We will do a battlefield tour, then



go into the Gettysburg Museum. We will check into our hotel wait till dark and do a nighttime ghost tour of the town of Gettysburg. We will head back to the hotel and turn in for the night. The next day we wake up early and make our way back to Robert Land Saturday morning. This is an amazing trip and if you have an opportunity, take it. Write a memo to ASM Zahra expressing your interest that you would like to take part in the training and the selection process. I will be taking 6 students that meet all the criteria academically, physically, and socially.



Save The Date!

THE ROBERT LAND ACADEMY

Galaxy
Saturday, June 10, 2023.

RCAC Report

Gold Stars test their teamwork skills in RCACC

OCdt. J.T. Lewis
2968 RCACC.

Recently Gold Star cadets of 2968 RCACC tested their teamwork skills as they had to complete a challenge that had them build and use improvised stretchers.

“Though it was a physical activity it was really about learning to work together,” said Warrant Officer Cameron Hewitt Hunt.

The cadets were only provided with a knife to cut rope and rope to make their stretcher. They needed to find material that they could use for the construction of the stretcher. Then, ultimately, they had to carry a “casualty” about 1 km distance to see if their stretcher would work.

“Our group used a pallet and some longer pieces of wood we found in the forest for handles,” Hewitt Hunt said.

While they tested their teamwork skills, the challenge also gave the cadets an opportunity to practice some leadership skills.

“It’s really important for people to learn how to follow and lead,” Hewitt Hunt said. “If you don’t learn about this you really aren’t going to get anywhere in life.”

“In any job, business or even at university, eventually you are going to be in a senior position where you are going to have to lead other people,” he said. “It doesn’t matter where you really are, there is always



WO Cameron Hewitt Hunt and WO Mykola Toews carry Cdt. Duncan Larmer on their improvised stretcher for the “casualty evacuation” part of the challenge. Photo by OCdt. J.T. Lewis

some sort of hierarchy.”

“If you learn about teamwork and leadership now, the better off you will be for later,” he said.

Part of teamwork is learning about how to respect each other. Cadet Duncan Larmer noted that in his group, they didn’t exactly have a leader, but, all three cooperated with each other to complete the assignment.

“None of us was really in charge,” he said. “I said ‘let’s look around us and gather our resources,’ the others thought it was a really good idea.”

But, ultimately what he talked about is a good leadership/teamwork skill, listening to the sugges-

tions of all the team members and coming up with a plan as a group that will lead to success in the challenge.

“We found we liked this method to complete the task rather than just one guy telling us what to do,” Larmer said. “People may come to resent that person telling them what to do.”

He noted that resentment could develop in the group especially if they haven’t developed that sense of a common goal, everyone being on the same page.”

Larmer also said that the skill development in cadets is important to the future, it’s about learning respect for people.

Continued next page

Alumni Committee Report

Homecoming weekend planned for end of May

James Paterson
Alumni Committee Chair

I was really pleased when LCol Smid invited alumni to take part in the Fall Exercise in 2021. It led to my son becoming an RLA Cadet but also to a re-connection with the school, re-connecting with other alumni, and the creation of a Homecoming weekend for alumni.

This year, Homecoming will take place May 26 through May 28, 2023. Like last year there will be plenty of time for alumni to chat with each other and share memories as well as some friendly competition with current students and staff.

Alumni are welcome to stay on campus in Fitzgibbon Hall for the weekend. It is not luxurious and is offered on a first come, first served basis. While on campus we will be invited to eat in the Mess Hall with staff and students, which given the quality of food served at RLA is always a welcome invitation.

Like last year family of alumni are welcome to attend however, they are not permitted to stay on campus. If you bring family you will need to make arrangements for other accommodations.

We are currently finalizing details of the weekend and the specific schedule of events with the ASM. As soon as it is finalized a registration link will be emailed to all alumni. Registration is \$70 and includes a Homecoming jersey.

I look forward to reconnecting with many alumni at RLA in May.



Gold Stars test their teamwork skills in RCACC cont'd

"You learn to respect the people over you and the people under you," he said. "Without respect both ways, it makes for a hostile work environment."

"If you have a team where people don't get along you won't get things done properly or in a timely man-

ner," he said.

Warrant Officer Mykola Toews stresses the importance of teamwork.

"Teamwork is really the most important aspect to any situation," Toews said. "Most situations (either in a work environment or while

pursuing post-secondary opportunities) you encounter include yourself and others, you are going to need use teamwork skills to complete any tasks successfully."

Calling All Old Boys!

**SAVE
THE
DATE**

Robert Land Academy

Homecoming

May 26 - 28 2023

Details & Registration Coming Soon!

Greetings from the Family Guild

Lisa Thompson
Family Guild Chair

As we start the second semester at the Academy, we are excited to welcome many new families to our community. We believe that each new family brings a unique perspective and a valuable contribution to our community. We look forward to getting to know each new family and building a lasting relationship, both virtually and in person, throughout the year.

If you have not already spent time on the RLA

Parent portal, feel free to get registered. It is a fantastic way to connect with other families! The parent portal is a fantastic resource for families to stay up-to-date on current events, access important information, and view their boys' progress. It also provides an opportunity to connect with other families in the community. In addition to the parent portal, families can follow the Robert Land Academy pages on Facebook and Instagram for exciting photos and updates.

Recently, the Academy

hosted its' annual father-son day, which was a great success! The event brought together dads and their boys for a day of fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition. It was a great opportunity for fathers and sons to bond and strengthen their relationship. We believe that such events are an important part of our community and we were thrilled to see so many families participating.

With the February stand down now behind us, we hope that families enjoyed the time they had with



their boys. Of course, in just a few short weeks, it will also be March break! I know, from my son's perspective how excited he is for this extended break. I hope that this time will be filled with fun and many memorable experiences.

Supporting The Academy

Why do we fund raise? Robert Land Academy is a not-for-profit organization. We receive no government funding, although we are inspected by the Ministry of Education. Our tuition fees cover operating costs only so special or extra programming, capital improvements and the Founder's Scholarship Fund are funded solely through donations from supporters like you.

RLA is currently raising funds to build the Founder's Scholarship Fund so we can help more boys find success.

All support, by attending events or donating directly to the school, is warmly appreciated and allows us to help our students reach their full potential in all areas of their lives.

Please visit
www.GiveToRLA.ca

for more information or to make a donation to the school.

Please contact Advancement Officer Sarah Whitaker for more information on donating securities; leaving a gift in your will; donations of in kind, such as materials or labour; and donor recognition.

RLA is a not-for-profit organization and donations are eligible for charitable tax receipts.



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